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A Leuva Publication

ISSUE 37

JUNE 2016

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Jai Shree Krishna,  
Dear Members

It's been 11 months since I took over the leadership as your President on July 2nd, 2015. As I've said before, LPS of USA has one singular goal only: to pass on our colorful culture and rich heritage to our new generation and generations to come.

Summer has just arrived and across the country it brings a flurry of weddings and social activity within our community. LPS of USA Board of Directors have been busy working with their respective committees on new programs. One such program is our Vendor's Partners Program. Slowly and steady it has picked up steam with over 100+ hotels participating in the program, bringing revenue stream to LPS. I encourage each of you to join as well. It's going to be beneficial to you and consequentially to LPS OF USA. You can find the necessary contact information in this issue.

Along with many of my board of directors, I went on road trip in different cities around our leuva regions, starting from California to Cincinnati, OH. During our trip we had interesting interactions with our wonderful members along the way. We really appreciated and enjoyed their hospitality and their active strength for LPS of USA. In all town hall and regional meetings our members have suggestions and concerns about our Samaj. During the tour and with our town halls we were able to gain 150 lifetime memberships, several annual memberships and many registrations for LPS OF USA Annual Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio.

I'm delighted to highlight some of the successful key events that have recently marked the milestone in our LPS history -

■ April 30th, 2016, the Gaam Ambassadors Leadership Conference was an outstanding event specially designed to address diversity and leadership issues and their application in membership development, engaging Gaam members and importantly assessing our community needs.

■ April 30th, 2016, our Youth Committee had organized the Youth Conference in Dallas, Texas. We had a great turnout of over 300+ youth, great speakers, engaging panelist discussion and fun activities for all age groups. This was one of the largest Youth Conference's in LPS of USA history.

■ May 1st, 2015, first time ever, our Women's Committee had arrange a wonderful Women's Cruise Retreat. Close to 400 Leuva women from across the nation, joined to this trip on a beautiful voyage to Turks and Caicos Islands.

All the above events were only made possible because of all of our attendees, volunteers and sponsors. Special thanks to our BOD's for their team work and for making all our events successful. Importantly, the enthusiasm we saw in all different regions were simply amazing!

Last but not least, I cordially invite everyone to attend our spectacular LPS of USA Annual Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio starting from June 30th thru July 1st, 2016 at The Millennium Cincinnati Hotel. This will be the first time, LPS OF USA is holding the Convention at this remote location. Please go online and register at [www.lpsofusa.com](http://www.lpsofusa.com) for the convention and reserve your hotel rooms as soon as possible, as rooms are going fast at and the special rate of \$99.00 per room will be available only for a limited time. Volunteers and the leaders are very enthusiastic and have already started working in different convention committees.

Always remember, people in power have a responsibility to recognize and embrace the differences among us. They cannot be just strictly ignored. No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave. Importantly, this organization is not about me or any particular individual, it's for our members! It's a team work! Join us and do something you can be proud of..!!

Thank you and God Bless!

**Harshad Patel** (Gaam - Saroli)  
Cerritos, CA  
President  
LPS of USA 2015-16

# LEUVA PATIDAR SAMAJ OF USA

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Dear Members,

So, what are you up to this summer? For most of us, summer is the time for parties, movies, fun, working, more fun, hangin' out and having more fun. The Sun rises for us every day, replenishing the Earth with the energy of Light and Life. No secrets, no darkness. Summer represents passion, courage, creativity, creation and action. It is a time of party, joviality and expression. It is time to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness. Not that there's anything wrong with that! Even if it's just for an hour - give of your time!

You may not feel an hour can make a difference but especially if every young leuva's, between 13 and 19 years old, volunteered just one hour of their summer we would have over countless hours of good vibes spread across our country!

What can you do in an hour? Serve lunch at a shelter. Read a story to a child that is blind. Help clean up our parks. Do a 10K walk for cancer, or aids, or leukemia or..., well, you get the picture. This summer, let's give of our time. Please join us wherever you are. Pick a day, write it down on a large piece of paper and stick it to your bedroom wall! Get some friends involved and make it part of an unforgettable summer! However, be ready because this will also be the day that you become a bigger and better part of the human race! Be sure to email us and let us know how it went!

While my talent as a writer and editor brought me to LC—and, happily, to LPS—my passion for community service will take me into the next chapter of my life as I take a leap of faith and follow my dreams into this field. But it truly isn't goodbye. A writer at heart, you'll soon be seeing my byline again as I document my journey. You can still find me around town, too, as I'll be working right here in LPS and volunteering at Society.

Covering this beautiful Leuva community has been both a privilege and an adventure. My endeavors at LC have easily marked the most significant learning experience of my life, and having the opportunity to live and work in LPS has made it all the more rewarding.

Thank you! so much to all the readers, contributors and friends of our little community. You've welcomed us with open arms and it has been a pleasure to serve you.

It is my sincerest hope that LC & LPS as a whole will continue to grow, both in the hearts of our members and as a trusted community news source. To hear so many of you praise our efforts—during my time here, I've gotten an incredible outpouring of support—makes me glow with pride. I'm so happy to have been a part of it.

That's it from us, enjoy the magazine and hope to see you all sooner. We hope you all have a great time and stay safe. Don't forget to register yourself for the upcoming convention in Cincinnati, Ohio & to reserve your hotel room! Go grab a refreshing lemonade and strap in – it's going to be a great SUMMER.

Best to you, LPS.... Enjoy your summer, keep safe and remember, it's not goodbye—it's I'll see you soon.

Good Reading!!

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**In Loving Memory of Our Loved Ones**

**ॐ शांति: शांति: शांति:**



NO	NAMES	GAAM	DATE OF DEMISE	CITY/STATE
1	Maniben Chhanabhai Patel		05/07/2016	Dayton, OH
2	Ramanbhai Dhanjibhai Patel	Bhamaiya	04/30/2016	India
3	Narottambhai Chittabhai Patel	Mota	04/29/2016	India
4	Vithalbhai Thakorabhai Patel	Vyara	04/28/2016	Duarte, CA
5	Maniben Rambhai Patel	Satam Toli	04/25/2016	Bowie, TX
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7	Ramanbhai Vanmalibhai Patel	Ninat	04/13/2016	Miami, FL
8	Naginbhai Lallubhai Patel	Gej Bid	04/08/2016	Buford, GA
9	Hemaben Balubhai Patel	Asta	04/07/2016	Los Angeles, CA
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11	Sukhdevbhai Lalbhai Patel	Bajipura	03/26/2016	Bakersfield, CA
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14	Umeshbhai Nareshbhai Patel	Puna	03/16/2016	Baton Rouge, LA
15	Bhagubhai Makanbhai Patel	Bharampor (Ruva)	03/08/2016	Bakersfield, CA
16	Maganbhai Vanmalibhai Patel	Zervavra	03/08/2016	Arlington, TX
17	Durlabhbhai Haribhai Patel	Sadodara	03/03/2016	India
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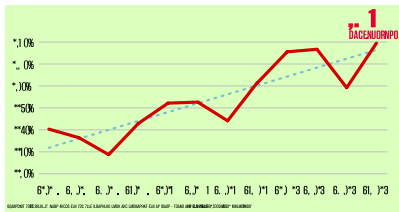


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## LPS YOUTH CONFERENCE

On behalf of the LPS of USA Youth Co-Chairs and the LPS of USA Youth committee, we wanted to thank each and every attendee that attended and participated in our Youth Spring Event in Dallas, Texas, on April 30th, 2016. We had a great turnout of over 300+ youth, great speakers, engaging panelist discussion and fun activities for all age groups. We want to give special recognition to SLPS of DFW and SLPS Youth of DFW President's Viral 'Sonu' Desai and Nirali Jariwala and their entire Youth Board for their hard work, dedication and great hospitality for this event. We wanted to thank our AAHOA Chairman Bharat 'Bruce' Patel and Treasurer Hitesh 'HP' Patel for taking the time out of their busy schedule to attend our event to speak to our youth about great life lessons. We also want to thank our own Leuva community Police Officer, Neil Patel who traveled all the way from California to speak to

our youth about alcohol and drug abuse. Special thanks goes to Houston Samaj Youth President Priyesh Patel and his entire Youth Board along with Austin Samaj Youth President Kylissa Patel and her entire Youth Board for helping and assisting us leading up to and during our event. Many of our LPS of USA Board Members were in attendance, including our President Harshad Patel, and they were equally impressed by our youth attendance and participation, and volunteers. This was one of the largest Youth Conference's in LPS of USA history, and that was only made possible because of all of our attendees and volunteers. We want to see continued youth attendance and participation for our future events, as our youth is the future of our Samaj. We are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you at our Annual LPS of USA Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio on June 30th - July 1st.







Dear members,

Jai Shree Krishna

We as the Women's Committee had the honor of hosting a grand event for our fellow LPS members. It was successful beyond our expectations and we were overwhelmed with the patronage by our members and very satisfying to see so many women interacting, engaging and enjoying their getaway.

So, how did all this come about? It all began with an idea and wish to do something amazing for the women in our Samaj that this cruise came to be. We wanted to do something special and equally unique for our Leuva women and thought what better way to achieve this than to enjoy a few days away from everything. Leaving everything behind and taking a few days for ourselves so we may come back inspired, empowered and invigorated.

Having an idea of hosting a cruise was just the beginning. Preparations started months before the cruise with the women's committee working tirelessly to plan this event. The overwhelming response we received gave us more inspiration to make this trip unforgettable. Our main goal was to bring awareness to issues close to our members' heart, by giving them a forum in which they could freely speak.

Close to 400 Leuva women from across the nation, joined us on May 1st on our maiden voyage to Turks and Caicos. With excitement and anticipation the journey began. As I looked around what I saw amazed me. Everyone had a smile on their face, talking to each other, mingling and sharing stories, laughing, and truly enjoying themselves. Importantly, they were rekindling their friendships and making the bond of womanhood stronger. We had women from all over the United States represent and attend the cruise. A lot of familiar and unfamiliar faces in the crowd.

The first session began with introductions of the amazing women's committee team. This cruise would not have been possible without these women volunteering their valuable time and exerting their hard work. We all had a common goal of bringing our Leuva ladies together in unity so that together we can become a better Samaj.

As each committee member shared their stories I believe everyone began to connect on a deeper level. Realizing that we as women really do have a lot on our plates. Day to day we do so much for others while leaving ourselves on the end

of the list. Our goal was to make women recognize that we all have a tendency to put ourselves last and ways we can change to make our lives and our families lives more meaningful and happy. As we talked about various topics we saw more and more participation from the crowd. Each woman sharing their struggle to fit in a society where they felt they were being judged by others and how they overcame certain obstacles. It was so uplifting to hear so many women wanting to talk and share their stories. We also tried to encourage women to go and meet new women, apart from their group. All were asked to meet and talk to at least 5 women they did not know before. Also to make things more entertaining we also had a few games of Family Feud where I think we laughed more than we played the game.

As the days went on I had so many women come to me and other committee members expressing how much fun they were having and how appreciative they were that we had planned this event for them. They were truly being themselves and enjoying every moment. We had some women meet friends they hadn't seen in 40 plus years!! They just happen to talk to each other and by talking found out they went to school together and knew each other!! Wow, what a coincidence that was.

Our day at Turks and Caicos was just as exciting. Some went sightseeing and shopping of course, while others took part in the natural beauty that surrounded us by kayaking, taking a boat to swim with the stingrays or just plain relaxing on the beach. Some of our more adventurous ladies did the obstacle course and zip line while others stayed back and pampered themselves at the Spa. So much to do that by the time we got back to the ship we were ready to relax. After dinner women had time to excitedly tell others about their day on shore. They were also eagerly waiting for the Bollywood/Hollywood night to begin. We had some technical issues with our music, so with the help of my sister Bakula, aka DJ BK the night began. Lina started with having the women from different cities do a dance competition which everyone enjoyed. Then we all danced the night away!!! It was truly the highlight of the cruise. Once the party started, let me tell you it started. The dance floor was packed and ladies all around in their seats, in other corners of the bar, were all tapping their feet's and dancing the night away. We had so much fun that the cruise liners had to barricade and block off the party so others wouldn't be able to attend. All in all, this was their night, their party and all were enjoying.

The last session reminded us that this experience was soon coming to an end. We touched on some more serious topics that affect woman today. With health being on the forefront. Sheetal, Nancy and I were talking about our personal health issues and how we overcame them was really an eye opener for many. They didn't realize what we had been through and the struggles we faced to get to where we were now. It seemed we all felt more comfortable in expressing our opinions and more women wanted to share their stories. It truly was an amazing few days getting to know so many women on a personal level. I felt as if we are truly blessed to be a part of such an organization like LPS and accomplishing our goal we started with.

All of these women came together in unity and found friendships, new and old. What a great adventure it was! Finding our voice on topics close to our hearts, women enjoyed the open forum where they felt comfort in sharing their personal stories. We laughed, we cried, and we danced the night away. From this unified journey, we are taking home

unforgettable memories that we will cherish forever.

We made 67 new LPS members, 8 lifetime members, and collected additional donations, which is an amazing accomplishment.

Also the support of our gracious sponsors whom gifted our members various items and giveaways which made everything even more memorable. From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to sincerely thank each and every woman who joined us on this retreat. Also, without the support from our sponsors, this trip would not have been the same, so thank you to them. A special thanks to Red Roof Inn as our platinum sponsor for this amazing event.

See you soon in Cincinnati, Ohio for the regional convention!!

Sincerely,  
Trusha Patel  
Co-Chair on Behalf of the Women's Committee  
Austin, Texas



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April 30th, 2016, the Gaam Ambassadors Leadership Conference was an outstanding event specially designed to address diversity and leadership issues and their application in membership development, engaging Gaam members and importantly assessing our community needs.

The conference, which was organized first time ever by LPS of USA, broadens horizons in a tactful and engaging manner through keynote speakers, interactive presentations and workshop sessions.

The key points and outcome of this conference were -

- ◆ Shared and had knowledge of various issues that exist in our society and be able to effectively communicate cross culturally.
- ◆ Be aware of and have the ability to explore our own identity.
- ◆ Appreciate the ways in which we are different from each other while at the same time, explored the ways we are similar to each other.
- ◆ Developed skills of being an inclusive leader that values the effort and participation of everyone.
- ◆ Make a positive influence within our own community.

Special thanks goes to our Past President Bharat 'Bobby' Newman and our Gaam Ambassador Relation officers - Ashok Patel (Vivian, LA) and Dipak Patel (Ocala, FL) for taking the lead for this event and Dallas region volunteers for their unconditional help & support for this event.





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Attendees 18 & Over	\$ AMT	AGE	Email Address
Subtotal A			
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Age 9 & Under (FEE)	\$0	AGE	
Subtotal B			

C.) LPS Membership is \$60.00(1 yr) or \$100.00 (2 yr) \_\_\_\_\_ D.) Lifetime Membership \$1001.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 E.) I wish to donate towards this convention \$ \_\_\_\_\_ F.) I wish to donate towards the LPS Scholarship Foundation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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2016 LPS Annual Member (18 & Over)	\$99.00 per person	\$149.00 per person
LPS Lifetime Member	\$79.00 per person	\$129.00 per person
Children ages 10-17	\$59.00 per person	\$109.00 per person
Senior Citizen (65 & Over)	\$69.00 per person	\$119.00 per person
Non-Member (Leuva Only)	\$159.00 per person	\$209.00 per person

**NOTE:** (1) Unmarried children 18 & above of Lifetime Members will be charged \$79.00 for early registration. (2) Married children of a Lifetime Members will be considered as a regular annual member. (3) All family membership must have current valid membership or will be charged the non-member (Leuva) fee.



# LPS OF USA

2016 Annual Convention & Trade Show

Millennium Cincinnati Hotel, Cincinnati, OH

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER SERIES

### RAVI PATEL

President of Hawkeye Hotels



Hawkeye Hotels founded in 1982 with one roadside hotel in Mena, Arkansas, has rapidly expanded in the past five years, now owning nearly 50 hotels and properties across the Midwest and employing well over 1,000 people. Hawkeye Hotels owns and operates over \$400 million in assets across Midwest. Ravi Patel has built connections from holding many fundraisers for Democratic candidates. Democratic insiders around the state keep bringing up Ravi Patel as an intriguing future leader. He's also an entrepreneur involved in many startup businesses. His next startup sounds like it will be a run for Congress, as his plans for running in the 1st District sound all but certain. He grew up in Burlington and Iowa City, and currently owns a home in Cedar Rapids.

July 1st, 2016

### MUKESH JOSHI

Poet & Writer

- His book on Poetry 'Kagal Ne Pratham Tilak' was published in 1999.
- He has conducted more than 150 Programs of Kavi Sammelan and conducted more than 100 Musical Programs in India.
- He has also compered programs and recited poetry for Radio & TV.
- His work has not only brought joy to the audience but has also been recognised by the various cultural organisations including the Government. He is the recipient of many awards for his contribution to poetry, lyrics and scripts form the Gujarati Sahitya Academy and many Government and cultural organisations.

અરસ પરસ સરસ



July 1st, 2016

### HAARDIK NAYAK



- President - Navsari Management Association
- Co-Founder - "Rangat"  
A Group for Art, Culture & Literature Promotion
- Former President - Rotary Club of Navsari
- CEO - Haardik Nayak Wealth Management Pvt. Ltd.
- Frequently invited as a speaker in India & overseas

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## LEUVA YOUTH ON THE RISE - MIRAJ SAMIR PATEL SPEAKS TO FORMER PRESIDENT & CEO OF AH & LA

Tuesday, March 22nd, 2016, young professional Miraj Samir Patel had the honor of joining a private dinner with Joseph A. McInerney, CHA. Mr. McInerney is the President & Chief Executive Officer of McInerney Hospitality International LLC, a full service international consulting practice and Emeritus President and Chief Executive Officer of American Hotel & Lodging Association (AH&LA). Furthermore, he serves as a Consultant and Interim Chief Operating Officer for the American Hotel & Lodging Educational Institute (AHLEI).

The private dinner was hosted at the Johnson & Wales University in North Miami, Florida where Miraj is a full-time Hotel & Lodging Management student. Selected students were invited to this private dinner as this was an honorary dinner hosted for the Johnson & Wales University faculty to recognize and award the newly graduates of The Certified Hospitality Educator (CHE) program. This certification is designed for instructors and professors in college and university hospitality programs who meet the knowledge and experience requirements and successfully complete a certification examination.

As one of the selected students who was invited to this private dinner, Miraj had the privilege to watch the certification ceremony and listen to Mr. McInerney's speech which consisted of the impact of travel and tourism in the industry. Further more, Miraj got the opportunity to speak one-on-one with Mr. McInerney about how he is getting involved in the hospitality industry and what he plans to accomplish in the upcoming years. Miraj Samir Patel is a proud Asian American Hotel Owners Association (AAHOA) lifetime member where he was recently recognized as the youngest lifetime member in the history of AAHOA. His desire is to become a second-generation hotelier. For Miraj, passion and dedication are what pave the path towards his visions. He is determined to make an impact in the hospitality industry through innovations and creating unique ideas. Starting at an early age in the hospitality industry, he understands the business and continues to be energetic about learning.

Aside from his passion for the hospitality industry, he is a true believer of giving back to the community. His father, Samir Patel, has rooted the importance of community involvement into him while growing up. Miraj serves on several community organization committees, such as the Leuva Patidar Samaj of USA (LPS of USA) and was Past President of the Leuva Patidar Samaj of Houston Youth Club (LPSH Youth Club). Miraj continues to seek opportunities to make a difference within his community.



## RP Rama has been named India's Top Travel & Hospitality CIO at India's CIO Power List 2016 in Mumbai CIO

CIO Power List provides the perfect setting for India's mightiest CIOs and undeniably the most powerful personalities of the year. It's a recognition for CIOs who have created boundless possibilities and scale by using information communication and technology with a genuine obsession to deliver superlative performance. On May 12 and 13, CORE Media honored India's most influential and dynamic IT leaders shaping business at CIO Power List 2016. The gala two-day event was hosted at Lonavala's iconic Fariyas Hotel, with KPMG as the Knowledge Partner.

The selection was based on the CIO's online reputation, business publications and technology magazines, combined with data on awards, honors and recognitions won, achievements till date, a random sampling of social media engagements, and a nation-wide survey of peers in the CIO community. And finally there were inputs from the CIO himself/herself on their key moments in the last 12 months. Raman Rama, Owner, Executive Vice President and CTO/CIO, JHM Hotels, was awarded as Travel & Hospitality Icon.



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## SIMA DONATES \$51,000 TO MAYOR TURNER'S STORM RELIEF



HOUSTON – On Friday, May 6th, the Small Independent Motel Association (SIMA) members met with Mayor Turner and other city officials to deliver the check for the Houston's storm victims and to discuss how SIMA and the City of Houston can continue working together to protect the motel and hotel industry as well as the citizens of the Houston in times of need.

SIMA worked with various city departments to relocate the victims of the floods who lost their homes. Under the leadership of President Hasu Patel and SIMA Board Members Raman Das, Jin Laxmidas, Nick Patel, Danny Patel and others, SIMA raised and donated an incredible \$51,000 to Mayor

Turner's storm relief fund. A prayer as offered for the seven people who lost their lives, their families and all those affected by the storm before handing over the check. Mayor Taylor thanked the members and said he looked forward to SIMA's continued cooperation. Hasu Patel, president SIMA, expressed his condolences to the victims families and assured SIMA's support in the future as well.

SIMA has continuously worked with the City of Houston leadership including Mayor Lee Brown, Mayor Bill White, Mayor Annise Parker, and now Mayor Sylvester Turner to discuss and resolve issues pertaining to the motel and hotel industry as well as to provide natural disaster relief efforts during crises. SIMA has donated more than 3,000 rooms over the years for displaced victims of Hurricane Ike, Hurricane Katrina, the fire at the Southwest Inn that killed 4 firefighters, the Memorial Day Flood of 2015, and most recently the devastating flood on April 18th.

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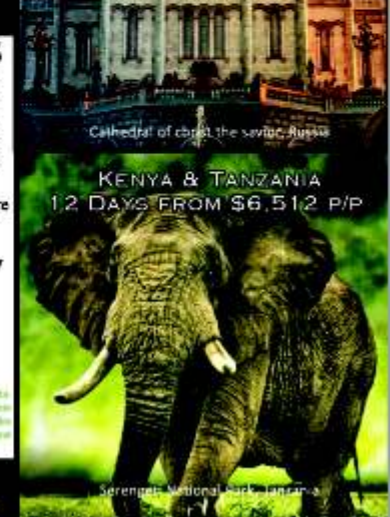
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## A Journey of A Blind Person

Born on December 27th, 1989, I Chandni

Patel came into this world with one of the most happiest and joyful moments for my parents Harshad & Roshni Patel. Just like any proud parent it was a happy chapter in both my parents life that day at the hospital. However, 2 months later my parents were surprised and heavily shocked to find out that I was totally blind due to excessive oxygen in the incubator during my prematurity. Both my parents could not believe how this could be possible and why did it happen to their own child. Acceptance was the moment of dismay.

Growing up as a little girl being blind was not a disadvantage for me as I knew nothing of what the world looked like on the outside of my darkness. I felt like I was a normal human being till one day I had a rude awakening at the age of 5 by one of my school teachers. I will never forget that moment when my teacher made one of the most insulting comments stating that I would never be able to do anything in life as I seemed mentally retarded as I was not normal like the rest of the children that could see. Since those excruciating words were sinked into my head it challenged me to prove her statement wrong and encouraged me to do whatever my heart desired regardless I could not see.

My passion for singing had started at age 2 when I use to listen to music and recite the songs I heard so knowing inside of myself that I always wanted to sing and perform I started taking voice lessons at the age of 8. As I became more mature and more strong I managed to succeed with my passion of singing and started performing at local events for the Samaj during Navratri, Diwali and other social events including the LPS of USA National Conference during my dad's term as the convention chair in Ontario California last July 2015.

I owe a lot to both my parents, my sister Karishma, Bapa, Ba and my other family members and friends for giving me the foundation and support as a blind person. When an individual becomes blind, they have to face two major

problems. First, one must learn the skills and techniques which will enable them to carry on as a normal productive human being in the community, and second, I had to become aware of and learn to cope with the public attitudes and misconceptions which to the very grass roots of our culture and permeate every aspect of social behavior and thinking. I had learned to be self sufficient with minimal assistant and have been able to do all of my own things that most normal people do in their lives.

I love my life and not missing much as I can still hear, feel and taste the world around me. The only difference between me and the sighted person is the way I do things.

Accomplishments are made of dreams and drudgeries, of hope and hard work so never give up in life no matter what challenges are in front of you. Always follow your passion and be fortunate to see the world as I am fortunate to see the world thru imagination. I may never see the real look of my parents or my sister but my imagination has painted a beautiful picture in my mind thru their voice and love.

*"..Society judge people by their skin color, clothes and by their appearances, but being blind with no vision, I never had that chance to judge those emotions for the people. for me all are equal.."*

I have a strong belief in God and the fact that everyone has a purpose. There is a reason I am blind even if I have not figured it out yet. Maybe someday they will come up with a cure and until then I have to live life and not going to let blindness or anything else stop me from living life. In all actuality in some ways my blindness is a blessing as it taught me to have patience, tolerance and the ability to know it okay to be different. If everyone was the same in life it would be incredibly boring. I do not look at my blindness as a hurdle, it is simply a jumping block to help me get to new places in life. I love being a Leuva and have always been proud of my father's volunteerism of samaj seva to the LPS of USA from 1996 to current while still taking care of me and defining me into a great person that I am today.



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## LIVING LIFE IN DFW, TEXAS

By Punit Patel and Shivani Patel, Presidents of SLPS Youth Group of DFW



Living in such a well-established and growing city such as Dallas, it is often likely that we are derailed from our cultural roots and understandings. Here in Dallas at the Surti Leuva Patidar Samaj we hope to instill a sense of togetherness throughout our community. With an aspiration to create leaders and everlasting friendships, the samaj puts together numerous and diverse events that satisfy a range of groups including seniors, adults, young adults, teenagers, and even kids. The SLPS community is comprised of thousands of members and shareholders that share one common goal and that is to revive the Hindu culture in our next and upcoming generation.

In order to achieve this goal, the samaj is split into various categories such as the Men's Advisory Council Committee, the Women's Advisory Council Committee, Young Professionals, SLPS Youth Group, Senior Citizens Committee, and even the Kids' Club. All these groups organize their own events for their own particular age groups. The youth has also taken part in various community service activities such as the Aga Khan Foundation Charity walk, Trinity Trash Bash, Salvation Army, Mission Arlington, and a Clothing Drive. The youth board had put together multiple fun events for their members such as a night at Main Event, Rangers Game, Mavericks Game, Team Bonding at Group Dynamix, and Ice Skating! During Navratri the SLPS Youth, with the help of many kind donations, raises funds through the chaat corners. Further, Youth committee also partners with our Executive Committee to host Mission Donate, and several Charity events in our local Dallas region. Another committee known as the Kids' Club, host various events for toddlers and younger children. All of this is only possible with the persistent help of our Executive Committee. They are always available to any one of these committees for help. The Executive Committee works closely with the Men's Advisory Council Committee to ensure that Diwali, Navaratri, and other events run smoothly.

SLPS of DFW has a mindset to make a statement, "Alone we can do little, but together we can do so much". All of these committees combined serve to reach that mindset. We come together as a community and make the change our world wishes to see. Without the help of our various committees, the SLPS of DFW would not be the successful community it thrives to be today.





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## SOCIAL MEDIA IMPACT ON RELATIONSHIPS AND BRAINS?

 **Manish Desai | E: [symphony@sbcglobal.net](mailto:symphony@sbcglobal.net)**

From Facebook to Twitter, Instant Message to Instagram, Oovoo to Yik Yak, iPods to iPhones, it seems as though the technologies of communication runs our society today. The great debate is whether or not technology hinders or improves communication. Some of us may say that technology strengthens social relationships because it provides a fast and reliable avenue for people to communicate with those within a mile to hundreds, thousands miles away. Others may argue that technology hinders social relationships because communications through devices lack the ability to have face-to-face interaction. However, I believe that technology hinders social relationships. Internet addiction can be clearly seen by the numerous amounts of people who clearly cannot face the everyday task of social interaction without devices. While this may make it seem easier at the time and from face-to-face interactions. This means that with increasing technology, new generations will lack the ability to read face expressions and understand subliminal social cues. Once these socially incapable generations grow old and our older generations die, there will be no one to reverse the devastating trend of no human interaction. With the addiction to technology, it is clear that people use devices at

inappropriate times. Texting while driving has become a huge & serious problem. Luckily some of the states have begun to ban this dangerous activity, but that will not stop teens who feel the constant need to communicate through devices. With children and teens being so connected, it is extremely easy for strangers to invade homes through the computer and get personal information. Majority of all the young generations now own an iPod/MP3 player, own a cell phone, and own a laptop. These technologies of communication are greatly impacting our youth both in good & in bad ways; we all need to be wary of their effects on social relationships..... So the big question comes to my mind is, "Parenting in the age of technology..??"



Are there any simple rules for monitoring a child's technology — whether it means video games, tablets, cell phones, TV or social media? Unfortunately, there's still so much we don't know about the long-term effects of technology on the brain. But since technology isn't going anywhere, parents need to think carefully about the role it plays in our children's lives. "Every child is different, so it is difficult to draw hard-and-fast rules, but I think wise parents go for less tech use rather than more!

In the end, it's vital to remember that your kids are watching you. The old adage "Do as I say, not as I do" just doesn't work when it comes to technology. If your face is pasted to an electronic screen most of the time, your impressionable offspring will consider that normal — and do the same. Shut off all gizmos regularly and enjoy face-to-face conversation. Take your children outside, without digital toys, and enjoy the wind, sunshine, trees, and flowers. Growing brains need the kind of nourishment that technology — no matter how sophisticated and bewitching — can never supply.



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 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Middle Last  
 Father's Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Village: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Mother's Father's Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mother's Village: \_\_\_\_\_

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 Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Married Children First Name Only**  
 1. \_\_\_\_\_     2. \_\_\_\_\_     3. \_\_\_\_\_

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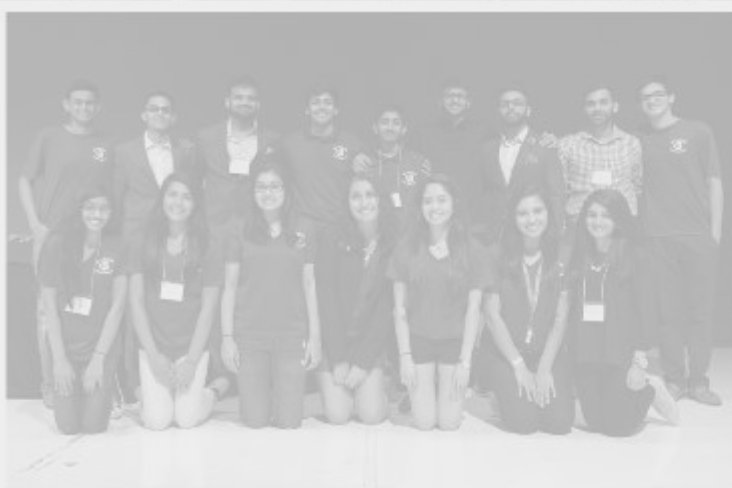


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